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Wednesday, May 29, 2019 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

ASHLEY SMITH/WIDE EYED STUDIOS

## 'INDECENT'

**Director Rebecca Wright gives the scoop on the Arden's transformative new production. 16-17**

SHAWN BRACKBILL

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**PHILLY BEER WEEK XII**

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PHILLY BEER WEEK

8 THINGS TO KNOW

# Ohio twisters leave 1 dead, many hurt as Midwest preps for more

One twister hit Dayton and another touched near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

REUTERS

A spate of tornadoes pulverized buildings in western Ohio early on Tuesday, killing one person, injuring scores of others and requiring emergency officials to send out snowplows to clear debris from a major highway, officials and media reports said.

At least one tornado hit Dayton and at least two touched down near the city, including one near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, just east of the city, media reports said, part of a series of storms that have ravaged the Midwest in recent days.

There was a risk of more tornadoes and hailstorms from Tuesday afternoon into the night in Kansas and other Midwest states, while residents in Arkansas and Oklahoma braced for more record-breaking floods, the National Weather Service (NWS) said.

Sue Taulbee, 71, was watching television in her bed in the Dayton suburb of Brookline when she heard the telltale sounds of an approaching twister.

"They say it's like a freight train: That's what I heard," she recalled on Tuesday afternoon. She hid at the foot of the bed. Flying debris smashed her window and she was soon trapped as her home collapsed around her.

> **"We've had injuries ranging from lacerations to bumps and bruises from folks being thrown around in their houses due to the storms."**
>
> Elizabeth Long, Kettering Health Network

"It was only a couple of minutes, but it seemed like an hour," she said as she sat in her yard, surrounded by her scattered possessions. "I just started screaming and my neighbors heard me and said, 'Sue! Sue! I hear you! We're coming! We're coming!'"

They pulled her out through a hole and brought her to a hospital to get a laceration on her head treated, she said.

At least one of the tornadoes reached wind speeds of 140 mph, the NWS said.

An 81-year-old man was killed in Celina, a small city 65 miles north of Dayton, after a tornado sent a vehicle crashing into his home, Celina Mayor Jeffrey Hazel said at a news conference on Tuesday. Another seven people were injured in the storm, three of them seriously, he said. About 40 homes in Celina were seriously damaged or destroyed, Hazel said.

At least 45 people in and around Dayton went to hospitals with injuries, most of them minor, according to Elizabeth Long, a spokeswoman for the Kettering Health Network.

"We've had injuries ranging from lacerations to bumps and bruises from folks being thrown around in their houses due to the storms," she said.

The latest storm follows tornadoes and floods that killed at least three people in Missouri and six people in Oklahoma during the previous week, including two people in El Reno on Saturday.

More than 65,000 homes and businesses in Ohio were left without power on Monday morning, according to the PowerOutage.US tracking service, and officials advised people to boil water after water plants and pumps went out of service.

Flooded areas of Arkansas and Oklahoma were bracing for more rain that will feed the already swollen Arkansas River, forecasters said on Tuesday. Up to 19 inches of rain have fallen so far in parts of Oklahoma over the month of May, the NWS said, with more on the way.

Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri all have activated National Guard units to respond to the storms. REUTERS

## Belgian ex-king submits paternity test sample

**2** Belgium's former king has submitted a DNA sample demanded from a woman who says she is his daughter after a court ordered him to pay $5,586 a day if he failed to do so. King Albert II, 84, agreed to submit a sample even though he is challenging at the supreme court a ruling that has resulted in him having to take a paternity test, lawyer Alain Berenboom said on Tuesday. "He noted that the court had decided that the conclusions of this examination would be strictly confidential until a new judicial decision," Berenboom said in a statement. The retired monarch, who abdicated six years ago in favor of his son Philippe, has been fighting the paternity claim of Belgian artist Delphine Boel, 51, for over a decade. His lawyers argue it is premature for him to take a paternity test while Boel still has a legal father, Jacques Boel, scion of one of Belgium's richest industrial dynasties. REUTERS

## Zuckerberg snubs fuming Canadian lawmakers

**3** Canadian lawmakers fumed on Tuesday when Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg snubbed an invitation to Ottawa to testify on privacy and democracy before an international panel, slapping the billionaire with a standing summons. It was the second time in six months Zuckerberg and Chief Operating Office Sheryl Sandberg have failed to show up when invited to address a committee of international lawmakers investigating disinformation, privacy and how to protect democracy. Zuckerberg and Sandberg will be served with a formal summons should they "decide to come to Canada to go fishing," said Canada's Charlie Angus, a parliamentarian for the left-leaning New Democratic Party. "It's not good enough for them to blow us off." If the two do not comply, parliament could hold them in contempt, but it would be mainly a symbolic move. REUTERS

Stormy Daniels speaks to media along with lawyer Michael Avenatti outside federal court in Manhattan. REUTERS

# Avenatti pleads not guilty to ripping off Stormy Daniels

The Trump foe is accused of stealing about $300,000 from the porn star.

Lawyer Michael Avenatti pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to charges that he stole from porn star Stormy Daniels, the client who propelled him to fame as an outspoken adversary of President Donald Trump.

An attorney for Avenatti, public defender Sylvie Levine, entered the plea to charges of wire fraud and aggravated identity theft before U.S. Magistrate Judge James Cott in Manhattan. Cott ordered Avenatti released on a $300,000 bail bond, on condition that he notify authorities of any travel plans and have no contact with Daniels.

In an indictment made public last Wednesday, prosecutors in Manhattan accused Avenatti, 48, of stealing about $300,000 from Daniels to fund an extravagant lifestyle, including a Ferrari automobile, after helping her secure a book contract. The new charges came on top of two separate criminal cases Avenatti already faced.

The plea was followed by a brief hearing before U.S. District Judge Deborah Batts, who has been assigned to oversee the case for trial. Avenatti said at the hearing that he planned to retain a private lawyer.

"I just have not had an opportunity to finalize that arrangement yet," he said. After the hearing, Avenatti declined to comment on the case.

> **"I just have not had an opportunity to finalize that arrangement yet."**
>
> **Lawyer Michael Avenatti**

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, was paid $130,000 from Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen shortly before the 2016 presidential election to keep quiet about an affair she said she had with Trump in 2006. The president has denied having had sex with Daniels.

Avenatti represented Daniels in lawsuits related to the hush money and later in negotiating a book deal.

Daniels' book "Full Disclosure" was published in October.

Prosecutors said Avenatti diverted two $148,750 installment payments from Daniels' $800,000 book advance by forging her signature in a letter to her literary agent and directing that the money be sent to his bank account.

Prosecutors said Avenatti eventually paid $148,750 to Daniels after obtaining the money from another source, but lied when she asked where the second payment was. Avenatti told Daniels the publisher "owes me a payment" and that he was "on it," prosecutors said.

Daniels has not received that payment, prosecutors said. She dropped Avenatti as her lawyer earlier this year.

Avenatti was arrested in March and charged by prosecutors in Manhattan with trying to extort more than $20 million from Nike Inc. by threatening to expose what he called its improper payments to recruits for college basketball teams it sponsored. He is expected to be arraigned on those charges in federal court in Manhattan later on Tuesday.

Nike has denied wrongdoing, and helped prosecutors before Avenatti's arrest. REUTERS

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For more information or to decline participation in this study, please visit boost3trial.org or contact our study staff at 215-707-5483.

Primary Investigator: Michael Weaver, MD

Study Coordinator: Hannah Reimer, RN, BSN

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The U.S. Supreme Court.

# Top court rejects challenge to rules accommodating Pa. transgender students

The Boyertown Area School District policy was left in place.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday preserved a Pennsylvania school district's policy accommodating transgender students, declining to hear a challenge backed by a conservative Christian group to rules letting them use bathrooms matching their gender identity.

The justices left in place a 2018 lower court ruling that upheld the Boyertown Area School District policy, which was challenged by six former or current high school students, though the action does not set a national legal precedent. The Supreme Court scrapped plans to hear a major transgender rights case involving bathroom access in public schools in 2017 and has never issued a decisive ruling on the matter.

The students challenging the policy argued that it violated their right to privacy under the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment and a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education, known as Title IX. They were backed by the Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative Christian legal group that has been involved in several major Supreme Court cases.

The Boyertown schools policy allows certain transgender students on a case-by-case basis to use locker rooms and restrooms that correspond to their gender identity. There is only one high school in the district, Boyertown Area Senior High School, which is located in the outer suburbs of Philadelphia.

Democratic former President Barack Obama's administration in 2016 issued guidance to American public schools to let transgender students use the bathrooms that correspond to their gender identity, a milestone in the history of transgender rights in the United States. That and other Obama policies supporting transgender rights triggered a backlash from Christian conservatives and some Republican politicians.

> **"Joel Doe was marked down in gym class for failing to change his clothes, and he eventually felt forced to leave the school entirely."**
>
> Lawyers

Just a month after taking office in 2017, Republican President Donald Trump's administration rescinded the Obama guidance. The administration has taken other steps to limit transgender rights including a Justice Department conclusion that a federal law against

REUTERS

workplace discrimination on the basis of sex does not cover transgender or gay employees.

The Supreme Court on Jan. 22 allowed Trump's policy barring many transgender people from the military to go into effect, lifting lower court rulings that had blocked it on constitutional grounds while a legal challenge continues.

The Trump administration last week also proposed rescinding an Obama-era regulation that protects transgender patients under the Affordable Care Act, often known as Obamacare.

Lawyers for the students challenging the policy said the high school did not notify students or parents about it. During the 2016-17 academic year, the school district applied the policy to three transgender students.

At the time the policy was introduced, the school district removed group showers in the locker rooms and replaced them with individual stalls. The district also added new multi-user bathrooms with individual stalls and built several single-user bathrooms.

The American Civil Liberties Union represents a Pennsylvania gay and transgender rights group that intervened in the case in support of the policy.

Among the student challengers, two still attend the school while four others do not. One of the students, identified in the case as Joel Doe, was "embarrassed and confused" when he was in the locker room getting undressed with a transgender student present, his lawyers said in court papers.

"Joel Doe was marked down in gym class for failing to change his clothes, and he eventually felt forced to leave the school entirely," the lawyers wrote.

Lawyers for the school district said the challenging students "failed to show any infringement of their rights" and defended the district's "sound educational policy" in handling transgender students.

The Philadelphia-based 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the school district in June 2018, prompting the challengers to appeal to the Supreme Court. REUTERS

## Boyertown Area School District reacts to the ruling

"With the current decision being rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States deciding not to hear the appeal, I hope that we will have an opportunity to move forward with healing and acceptance of differences in an inclusive manner. Inclusive education for students, staff, and the community can only be successful when the Boyertown Area School District community feel that each person is genuinely a part of the school district," Boyertown Area School District Superintendent Dana T. Bedden told Metro. "Creating a place where everyone feels welcome will require an open and honest discussion about differences where everyone has a voice, and institutional respect for people of all backgrounds and abilities. In inclusive schools, the establishment of such a climate benefits everyone by fostering an environment where our students and their families are valued."

MORGAN ROUSSEAU

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Odubel Herrera

GETTY IMAGES

# Phillies' Herrera arrested for domestic violence in AC

The center fielder was placed on MLB's administrative leave.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Philadelphia Phillies center fielder Odubel Herrera was arrested on Monday night and charged with simple assault following a domestic incident with his girlfriend outside an Atlantic City casino, per authorities.

Herrera was subsequently placed on Major League Baseball's administrative leave under its domestic violence policy and could be inactive for up to seven days while the situation is investigated.

According to the Atlantic City Police Department, officers responded to the Golden Nugget Casino where they found Herrera's 20-year-old girlfriend with "visible signs of injury to her arms and neck that was sustained after being assaulted by her boyfriend."

The woman refused medical attention before officers located Herrera in his hotel room. He was arrested without incident.

"This morning we were made aware of an alleged incident involving Odubel Herrera. Upon receiving this information, we immediately reported the incident to Major League Baseball, which has informed us that Herrera has been placed on Administrative Leave," the Phillies said in a statement. "The Phillies take any domestic violence accusation seriously, and strongly support the Joint Domestic Violence Policy agreed upon by MLB and the MLBPA."

Along with any possible legal action headed his way should Herrera's girlfriend opt to press charges, a suspension from Major League Baseball also looms for the 27-year-old.

Following the league's introduction of a domestic violence policy in 2015, 11 players have been investigated with varying degrees of punishment.

Aroldis Chapman of the New York Yankees received a 30-game ban in 2016 while Roberto Osuna of the Houston Astros was benched for 75 games last year.

In 39 games this season, Herrera is batting .222 with one home run and 16 RBI.

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ISTOCK IMAGES

# Teen in critical condition after woman crashes SUV through storefront

An elderly woman reportedly hit the gas instead of the brakes, injuring four people.

NATE HOMAN
letters@metro.us

A teenager is fighting for his life at a Philadelphia hospital after an elderly woman crashed her SUV through a storefront on Monday afternoon.

Police said four people were injured when a 71-year-old woman attempted to park her Kia Sportage, but hit the accelerator instead, and drove the SUV through the front of the Rainbow Shop clothing store on the 2400 block of South 24th Street in South Philadelphia at about 1:30 p.m.

A 16-year-old boy standing on the sidewalk outside of the store was dragged into the store and pinned underneath the vehicle. Officials said the SUV careened about 25 feet inside the store before coming to a stop. Witnesses reportedly attempted to lift the SUV, and a bystander came with a car jack, which was used to free the pinned teenager. The boy reportedly suffered injuries to his head and torso.

"All the sudden you hear this bang, so I turned around and all you see is the mannequins on the floor, the glass all over the floor but I don't see the little boy," Daniel Garcia told CBS Philadelphia. "Once he lifted up the car, I guess the position that the boy was in, the blood started coming out."

A 57-year-old woman, and two teenage girls, ages 14 and 15 years old, were also taken to the hospital with minor injuries.

> **"All the sudden you hear this bang, so I turned around and all you see is the mannequins on the floor, the glass all over the floor but I don't see the little boy."**
> **Daniel Garcia**

The driver was taken to the hospital to be evaluated.

Elaine Dabbundo told KYW News Radio that she initially thought the sound of the crash was a gunshot.

"I heard [the boy] moaning and I heard the moan getting lighter and lighter," Dabbundo told the station, adding that driver was visibly distraught. "She was shaken up, she was crying," Dabbundo said.

No charges have been filed against the driver.

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# Bezos pledges half her Amazon fortune to charity

The ex-wife of Amazon's chief became the world's third-richest woman.

REUTERS

MacKenzie Bezos, the former wife of Amazon Chief Executive Officer Jeff Bezos, pledged on Tuesday to give half of her $36 billion fortune to charity, following a movement founded by billionaires Warren Buffett and Bill and Melinda Gates.

Bezos, whose former husband is the world's richest man, was one of 19 people on Tuesday to join the "Giving Pledge," a campaign announced in 2010 by Berkshire Hathaway Inc.'s Buffett and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates. It calls for the super-rich to give away more than half their fortunes during their lifetimes or in their wills.

"In addition to whatever assets life has nurtured in me, I have a disproportionate amount of money to share," MacKenzie Bezos said in a statement dated Saturday. "My approach to philanthropy will continue to be thoughtful. It will take time and effort and care."

MacKenzie Bezos became the world's third-richest woman, according to Forbes magazine, acquiring a 4 percent stake in Amazon worth about $36 billion when she and Jeff Bezos announced their divorce settlement on April 4.

Jeff Bezos, whose net worth was estimated by Forbes at $131 billion this year, was quick to support his ex-wife's new philanthropic endeavor.

"MacKenzie is going to be amazing and thoughtful and effective at philanthropy, and I'm proud of her," he said on Twitter. "Her letter is so beautiful. Go get 'em MacKenzie."

Jeff Bezos, who tops the Forbes list of world billionaires, is not among the 204 wealthy "Giving Pledge" signatories from 23 countries who come from a wide range of fields, including finance, technology, health care and real estate development.

Other Forbes top 10 billionaires who have not joined the "Giving Pledge" are Bernard Arnault, head of French luxury goods conglomerate LVMH; Mexican telecommunications magnate Carlos Slim; European fashion retail mogul Amancio Ortega; and Google co-founder and Alphabet CEO Larry Page.

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# Spelling Bee aces buzz through early rounds; some stung by stumpers

Several of the young competitors were eliminated by words like "horripilation."

Students compete in the opening rounds of the 92nd annual Scripps National Spelling Bee. REUTERS IMAGES

The Scripps National Spelling Bee got underway on Tuesday with most young spelling aces breezing through tricky words like "kentledge" but a few striking out on stumpers like "horripilation."

Some 562 youngsters age 7 to 15 faced off at the start of the tournament that offers a $50,000 cash jackpot. The competition concludes on Thursday with an ESPN telecast.

"My brain is dripping out my ears," said Erin Howard, 14, of Huntsville, Alabama, who has been studying for roughly 25 hours a week since March to compete in her fourth and final year before she ages out of the national bee.

"There's definitely a lot of pressure to do well," said Howard, who advanced to the next round by correctly spelling the word "oyez," a call given by a court officer to command silence and attention.

"I don't really care about the money. I just enjoy the words and being onstage and hanging out with the spellers," she said.

Brody Krause, 10, of Thornton, Colorado, didn't fare as well, departing the stage after misspelling "parochialism."

"I'm extremely disappointed," said Krause, competing for the first time at the tournament, which began in 1925.

Krause noted he spent his own money on a dictionary to prepare for the bee, which this year drew spelling aces from all 50 states, U.S. territories and six other countries including the Bahamas, Canada, Ghana, Jamaica, Japan and South Korea.

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Students yawning during the early morning start of the second round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

of him," said his mother, Suzette Krause, 50, fighting back tears. "It's hard as a mama. I don't want to make him hate spelling."

The event takes place at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

The Unabridged Online version of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary is the official source of bee words, said bee spokeswoman Valerie Miller. That includes "horripilation," which is the bristling of hairs on the skin, and "kentledge," which is scrap metal used as ballast in a nautical vessel.

Under 2019 tournament rules, if no single winner emerges in the final round, the top prize may be split by co-winners, which has occurred six times in its history, or even tri-winners, which has never happened, said Miller.

Co-champs would split a total of the $50,000 first-place prize plus the $25,000 second-place prize. Tri-champs would split a total of $75,000 plus the $15,000 third-place prize, Miller said. REUTERS

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— **B. Cole**, *Metro US reader (and advocate for respecting personal space)*

ISTOCK

## metro.us/horoscopes

**Aries** The lessons of experience coupled with newfound information will help you reach your goal. Strive for perfection and pay close attention to detail. When in doubt, ask for help.

**Taurus** Call on someone you know and trust for good advice. Getting a second opinion will put your mind at ease and help you move forward with your plans. Romance is highlighted.

**Gemini** Call in a favor if it will help you get things done. An opportunity is only worth your while if it is useful. Don't buy into something that isn't necessary.

**Cancer** Emotions will emerge quickly if you feel someone is taking advantage of you. Try not to overreact or get into a dispute when you should just walk away.

**Leo** Staying active will help alleviate stress. Greater involvement in something satisfying or beneficial will help you maintain a positive attitude. Be intelligent when dealing with troublemakers.

**Virgo** Get involved in something that will improve your standard of living, health or the way you present yourself to the world. Don't overthink what needs to be done.

**Libra** Pick up information that will help you make good decisions. Confusion while traveling can be expected and should be countered with preparation.

**Scorpio** Take an active role in whatever you do. Partnering with someone who shares your ideas will help you reach your goal without a hitch. Romance will improve your life.

**Sagittarius** Rearrange things at home and clear a space for entertainment or a hobby you want to start. Communication will help bring you closer to a loved one.

**Capricorn** Make a change for the right reason, not because of an emotional incident or argument. Do what's right and best, not what feeds your ego. Choose peace and love over discord.

**Aquarius** Make changes at home that will add to your comfort. Don't feel you must keep up with the neighbors or someone who is prompting you to do something that is risky or unpredictable.

**Pisces** The personal changes you make should be made for your own reasons, not because someone else is pressuring you to make them. Moderation will be instrumental in alleviating stress. EUGENIA LAST

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# The Gotobeds make the perfect post-punk mixtape on 'Debt Begins at 30'

The Pittsburgh band enlisted a cast of indie-rock guest singers for their fantastic new record.

PAT KING
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Pittsburgh band The Gotobeds have been pounding eardrums with their brand of haywire post-punk since their debut, "People Are Revolting," back in 2014. Their tight, scrappy songs and fun-loving, devil-may-care mischievous live shows have made them a favorite on the scene for years, and with their newest record, "Debt Begins at 30," out this Friday on Sub Pop, the band has invited some pretty high-profile friends to join the party.

With a slew of grade A-pedigree indie-rock guest singers such as Joe Casey of Protomartyr, Bob Nastanovich of Pavement, Tim Midyett of Chicago indie-rock legends Silkworm, Victoria Ruiz of Downtown Boys, and an arsenal of other great voices and musicians, the band has created the indie-rock equivalent of a hip-hop mixtape. The songs flow in and out with a large cast of characters coming in and out to add to the narrative in meaningful ways that never wear out their welcome.

"As the guy that gets things done in the band, the reason you're talking to me instead of the other dudes," says lead singer and guitarist Eli Kasar, of the ambitious undertaking of the new record. "At one point we're at practice and I remember somebody had said, 'We all like rap. Why don't we make a record like a rap record where every song has a guest?' It's like a mixtape. It's a Gotobeds record, but we're going to have these people on it. So we were like, 'Good idea!' Then, no joke, I'm starting to think of perfect guests and I would suggest people. I would say it wasn't until we got to the third or fourth guest, I was just giving the guys a heads-up [saying], 'Hey, I have to pay an engineer $200 to record someone's vocals.' Then Cary [Belback], our drummer, was like, 'For what?' I was like, 'For their guest spot.' He was like, 'Who all is on the record?' So I started rattling some names off. He was like, 'Oh, are we doing that?' I'm the wrong person to suggest something to because if I think you're game to do it, I'm going to do it to the best of my ability. It kind of happened in not a joke way, but we fell into it I guess."

While the band has enlisted help from some heavy hitters to add color to the record, Kasan is amazed at how organically it all came together. Each guest agreed to be a part of the project out of sheer admiration and respect for one of the most exciting bands around.

"Although it might seem like starf—ing, I will say the people that are on the record are people that we have met and interacted with, were already talking and hanging out with us," says Kasan. "I don't think there was anybody that wasn't a friend or a fan already."

The title of the record is a play on the 1980 documentary on the Pittsburgh punk scene by artist and filmmaker Stephanie Beroes, "Debt Begins at 20." But as the band was writing material for the album, Kasan found that while it would be nice to be in on the reference, the lyrical themes of taking on debt while chasing artistic pursuits could stand on their own.

"It was a somewhat joke for us as we get older. It does get harder. We're certainly not taking this [playing in the band] as a career. We don't make any moves with that stuff in mind. It's cool that people could get the reference, but it could stand on its own. We're indebted to our friends who helped us make this record. We're indebted to our partners who put up for us being gone for long stretches. We're also in financial debt [laughs]."

*"Debt Begins at 30" by The Gotobeds comes out this Friday, May 31.*

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"Indecent" is onstage now.

Michaela Shuchman as Chana and Leah Walton as Halina.

# Transformative indecency

"Indecent" is onstage now at the Arden Theatre Company until June 23rd

MOLLY GIVEN
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The Arden Theatre Company's latest production, "Indecent," hits the stage this week, and this transformative show is truly unique.

"Indecent" is a play within a play, the story follows the controversy surrounding the 1923 Broadway production of "God of Vengeance" by Sholem Asch. Immediately after Asch's play hit the stage, the producers and cast were arrested for indecency. "Indecent" takes a deeper look at the history of "God of Vengeance" and the repercussions of debuting an informed show ahead of its time.

It also dives into how some people fear the unknown — regarding sexual orientation, cultural differences or overall political views.

Metro sat down with Rebecca Wright, who is directing the Arden's production, to talk about the show's history, the importance of the play's message and what Philly audiences can expect from the production.

**What can you tell me about Paula Vogel's play "Indecent," and how did you get involved with the production?**

"Indecent" is a play about a play called "God of Vengeance" that was a hit in Europe and the Yiddish theaters in New York. It was translated into a bunch of languages including English, and it transferred from downtown Yiddish theaters to downtown English speaking theaters and then opened on Broadway. Immediately following the opening on Broadway, the entire cast and the producers were arrested for indecency. You could point to a lot of things about the play that would have led to that arrest, but one of the things about the play is that it features a lesbian love story. Actually, the Broadway production was the first in the early 1920s to have a kiss between two women on a Broadway stage, so it was a really amazing and important play way ahead of its time in a lot of ways. There is just this interesting theater history tidbit of everyone getting arrested, and eventually indicted although they did get cleared. So this play was built starting on the arrest and then looking at the broader history of the ["God of Vengeance"] play, the Yiddish language, Yiddish language theater and really of theater in America and the Jewish influence. It's really very interesting subject matter and I became involved in this production a little more than a year ago when the Arden decided to hire me on to direct. I do have personal connections with the subject matter, but I'm also a Philly based freelance director and the cast is an ensemble cast so I've always worked with them as well.

**Why do you think it's important for this story to be told?**

In a lot of ways the story of this play is a story about people coming together in dark times to create things– to create art and create spaces where they can be safe and celebratory, to create spaces and art that represents them and where they can see themselves reflected and therefore from their communities. It really on that level feels like a story that still works for our times, a lot of people need that right now. It also just in its plot and themes, it's about censorship, it's about immigration, it's about assimilation, it's about cultural erasure, it's about what happens when people are sup-

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David Ingram as Otto, Doug Hara as Lemml and Ross Beschler as Mendel ALL PHOTOS ASHLEY SMITH/WIDE EYED STUDIOS

pressed and a language is lost– all of these things that just feel so pertinent to our current political climate. Then in addition to that, it is about the politics of representation and LGBTQ love and it's still pretty rare for non-normative love stories to get major airtime. You know, Americans screen in stages, and so I think it's really meaningful that this play depicts a story about that and about a lot of people who believed how important it was.

**Now jumping to the music in the production, how does it fit into the show?**

There's a ton of music in the show, music is a really integrated part of the piece and in the storytelling. There was music composed for the Broadway production and then [there was] music that kind of comes with the production. Some of the songs are old songs found from the times and places that the story takes place. One of the things that I think is so beautiful about popular songs and folk songs and lullabies is that they are really built for any voice. Most songs aren't only for people that are great at singing, they are built for people to come together and sing together. So there's really that feeling of community and inclusiveness and invitations that the songs bring into the aesthetic of the play. Then there's also a ton of music composed for the Broadway production as well, we have three musicians that have been in rehearsals with us every day they're very present in the staging, I mean they do basically everything the actors do– but then they also play instruments so beautifully. Music gets the emotions out like nothing else, and I think the music in this play is transformative.

**Overall what would you tell Philly audiences to expect from the show?**

You can expect to laugh, and learn, and maybe cry and be transported to a different time. At a certain level, the show is a love letter to the theater, it's from people who do this for a living and are expressing what they really love about it. You can expect to get a deep backstage blend on telling stories.

*"Indecent" will be playing at the Arden Theatre Company (40 N 2nd St.) now- June 23rd. For more information and tickets visit ardentheatre.org*

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# SugarHouse gets green light to start online betting

Online betting in Pennsylvania has finally arrived.

**MATT BURKE**

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

GEORGE WILDMAN

SugarHouse Casino is the first player to enter the online sports betting market in Pennsylvania as it got the green light to start taking bets on Tuesday afternoon.

It is a monumental moment for SugarHouse and the Pennsylvania sports betting market in general as the statewide handle and revenue could potentially triple overnight. Considering that around 80 percent of sports bets placed in the state of New Jersey are done online gives you a sense of how big this could be for the market in PA.

SugarHouse will be testing today and tomorrow, with a full launch expected to come on Friday.

## NHL, NBA betting

Reactionary betting is not the smartest practice.

Sure, you want to follow trends during the game closely. But what is true in Game 1 probably won't be true in Game 3, and what is true in the first period probably won't be true in the second period.

We've been seeing some big-time overreactions in the NBA and NHL playoffs this month as many bettors gave up on the Toronto Raptors after the first two games of the Eastern Conference Finals and many bettors thought the Boston Bruins were cooked during Game 1 of the Cup Final on Monday night.

FanDuel Sportsbook was offering its highest odds of the season on the Raptors to win the NBA title just 10 days ago, and they reportedly did not take a single bet at those odds. Then on Memorial Day (Monday) night, bettors ditched the Bruins after just one period in Game 1.

DraftKings Sportsbook reported that live odds got as long as +370 for the Bruins, who were favored going into the series, during the game on Monday night. The Bruins were down 2-0 early, but wound up winning the game, 4-2.

There was a bad beat element to Game 1 as well, as the over-under on goals scored in Game 1 was 5.5. Brad Marchand, of course, scored an empty-netter with 1:49 left in the third period to lift the official game total to 6.

Looking ahead to Game 2 tonight between Boston and St. Louis, DraftKings Sportsbook is offering a deposit bonus of up to $200 through MetroBet. To take advantage of this offer, go to

**tinyurl.com/y5fdl9lt**

The money has been coming in pretty even on the Bruins and Blues at DraftKings since Game 1's conclusion. Here are the odds at DK heading into Game 2.

**To win series: Bruins -305, Blues +240**

**Game 2 odds: Bruins -165, Blues +140**

**Total: 5.5 goals Over +110, Under -130**

**TWEET OF THE DAY**

**Todd Fuhrman**
@ToddFuhrman

**Best part of watching Raptors fans celebrate is that 98 percent of them would trade this for the Leafs getting to the Stanley Cup Final.**

Bet smart

## Sharps love betting on WNBA

Casual fans haven't yet developed an appetite to bet the WNBA. But many sharps consider it one of their favorite wagering sports. If you want to handicap and bet like a sharp, maybe you should start thinking that way, too.

Why do sharps love betting the WNBA?

*Opening lines are fairly soft, because oddsmakers don't spend much time analyzing the league. Oddsmakers are professionals, but this is a low-priority sport from their perspective.

*Stats and game-by-game box scores are readily available, which means quants have an easy time building models and adjusting on the fly.

*Handicapping fundamentals used by those "in the know" shine because basketball is basketball, no matter who's playing.

*In season, oddsmakers can be slow to make adjustments to changes in performance. Last year, the Atlanta Dream had a stretch where it went 14-1 against the spread through 15 games. Eventual champion Seattle went 12-2 ATS over 14 games. On the other end of the spectrum, disappointing New York had a 6-16 ATS stretch over 22 games, and Indiana went 4-16 ATS in a 20-game collapse.

Add it all up, and you get a few months of elite bettors at peak focus using their best strategies against oddsmakers who aren't prioritizing the sport.

Yes, betting limits are much lower than in other attractions. Sportsbooks never like it when it's just "oddsmakers vs. sharps." But, it's not hard for bettors to grind out meaningful money by spreading action amongst shops.

Injuries to top stars this season have also created a wild futures board with many championship threats. Current odds to win the WNBA title from William Hill:

**Las Vegas 11/4, Washington 3/1, Los Angeles 7/2, Connecticut 13/2, Atlanta 6/1, Phoenix 8/1, Seattle 18/1, Minnesota 33/1, Chicago 66/1, New York 100/1, Indiana 100/1, Dallas 100/1.**

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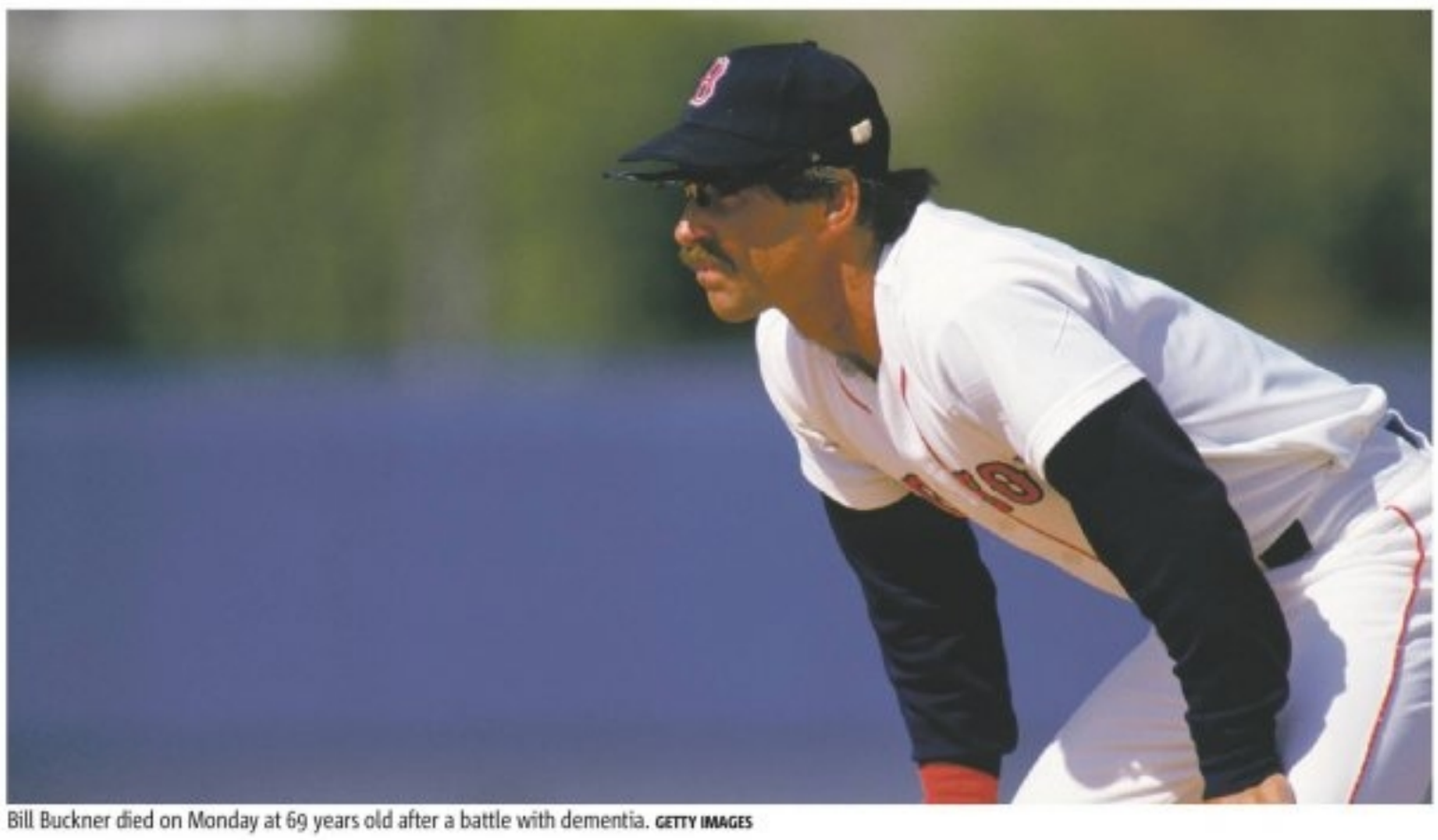
# BUCKNER'S LEGACY A REMINDER OF BASEBALL'S CRUELTY

PANTORNO'S PERCH

JOE PANTORNO
@JoePantorno



Bill Buckner died on Monday at 69 years old after a battle with dementia. GETTY IMAGES

With all the good that comes with being a professional athlete; the money, the fame, the chance to play a sport for a living, there comes its fair share of harrowing drawbacks.

In baseball, the game's nearly two-century tale has been dotted with the stories of misfortunes and mistakes that have sullied the names of consummate professionals.

It's a tale as old as the game as the majors, itself.

In 1908, New York Giants rookie, Fred Merkle's base-running error, titled "Merkle's Boner," in which he failed to touch second base on what would have been a game-winning hit by Al Bridwell in late September turned out to cost his team the National League pennant. The Chicago Cubs won the makeup game and the NL crown by a single game.

Merkle went on to play parts of 16 seasons in the majors, amassing over 1,500 hits and making five trips to the World Series.

Yet he was saddled with the unfair nickname of "Bonehead" for the rest of his days.

"I wish I'd never gotten that hit that set off the whole Merkle incident," Bridwell said later in his life. "I wish I'd struck out instead. If I'd have done that, I would have spared Fred a lot of unfair humiliation."

There have been countless instances where one play defines the careers of many players. Mickey Owen dropped the third strike of the final out in Game 4 of the 1941 World Series against the Yankees, who held a 2-1 series lead over the Brooklyn Dodgers.

The Yankees would go on to win the game and take the series in five.

Despite being a four-time All-Star in 13 MLB seasons, the catcher's 2005 obituary on ESPN was titled: "Mickey Owen, best known for dropped third strike in '41 World Series, dies."

Sports are cruel.

And in baseball, like any other competition, we sometimes must look past a play or two to get to the core of a player's legacy.

That brings us to Bill Buckner, whom the baseball world lost on Monday at 69 years old after a battle with dementia.

Upon hearing his name, a majority of baseball fans will think back to that one fateful moment — a slow roller off the bat of Mookie Wilson — in Game 6 of the 1986 World Series against the New York Mets.

That will be as far as I'll get into that play, even though Buckner himself was always gracious in defeat and was the epitome of a good sport throughout countless celebrations that followed over the decades.

If you don't know much else about this play, read a book.

While fans will continue to harp on that single play, Buckner is rightfully being celebrated as one of the finest players of his generation. Even though he never received a call to Cooperstown.

The California native put together a 22-year career from 1969-1990 in which he played for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Chicago Cubs, Boston Red Sox, California Angels, and Kansas City Royals.

Only 34 other players in MLB history played in four different decades.

With a .289 career batting average won a batting title in 1980 with the Cubs, posting a career-best .324 mark.

He led the league in doubles twice, finished in the top-20 in MVP voting four times and compiled 2,715 career hits.

Only 65 major leaguers have recorded more hits than Buckner including Lou Gehrig, who had just six more.

And there was so much more.

He was the Dodgers' left fielder desperately climbing the fence at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium in April of 1974 as he watched Hank Aaron's 715th-career home run sail well over the wall.

He collected seven RBI in a 1979 game against the Philadelphia Phillies at Wrigley Field in which the Cubs lost 23-22.

He was an All-Star in 1981.

He was one of just five players (Rod Carew, Al Oliver, Pete Rose, Steve Garvey) in Major League Baseball to have a .300 average or better from 1972-1982.

It's not just a single play that defines a career. It's so much more.

Especially when Buckner handled all the hatred and vitriol thrown his way by Red Sox fans 33 years ago with such grace.

And much like Bridwell lamented his part in a notorious baseball moment that plagued Merkle for the rest of his days, Wilson echoed similar sentiments on Monday.

"I was saddened to hear about Bill's death. We had developed a friendship that lasted well over 30 years," Wilson said. "I felt badly for some of the things he went through. Bill was a great, great baseball player whose legacy should not be defined by one play."

There's the rub when it comes to sports stardom.

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# Eagles still counting on Jenkins during no-show

The veteran safety was with his teammates on Memorial Day.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Malcolm Jenkins has yet to arrive at Eagles OTAs this month. GETTY IMAGES

As OTAs continue for the Philadelphia Eagles, so does the absence of veteran safety and team leader Malcolm Jenkins.

It's the first time the 31-year-old is missing OTAs in his now-11-year career, which is why there has been plenty of noise made about his absence.

Speculation has run wild that Jenkins is in search of a new contract. The two-time Super Bowl winner is one of the top safeties in the NFL, yet is making $8.1 million and $7.6 million over the final two seasons of his contract.

In terms of contract value, nine safeties alone are making more than Jenkins, per Spotrac.com.

Even if this is a holdout of sorts, Jenkins remains a presence around his teammates off the field.

Jenkins was pictured with Josh Hawkins, Jalen Mills, Rodney McLeod, Jenkins, Ronald Darby, Cre'Von LeBlanc, Sidney Jones and Blake Countess — all of whom are members of the Eagles' secondary — at what was likely a Memorial Day party.

On Tuesday, however, Jenkins remained a no-show at Eagles activities.

At least on the surface, it doesn't seem to be bothering team personnel. Especially because these OTAs are still voluntary, after all.

"Certainly he's one of our most experienced players. He's one of our biggest leaders. But it's not anything unusual when you look around the NFL," Eagles defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz said. "Different guys are in different parts of their career. Some guys benefit from more rest, some guys benefit from more work. Every case is a little bit different."

Jenkins would not face actual punishment until June if he fails to report for the team's three-day minicamp. That would carry a total fine of $88,630, per the NFL's CBA.

If this supposed holdout lingers into training camp, he could lose up to $40,000 per day.

Schwartz, however, doesn't see it getting that far.

"I know this: When the chips are down you'll be able to count on Malcolm Jenkins and a lot of other guys," he said. "That's what they're doing here this time of the year. Malcolm has some of those credits already in his bank account."

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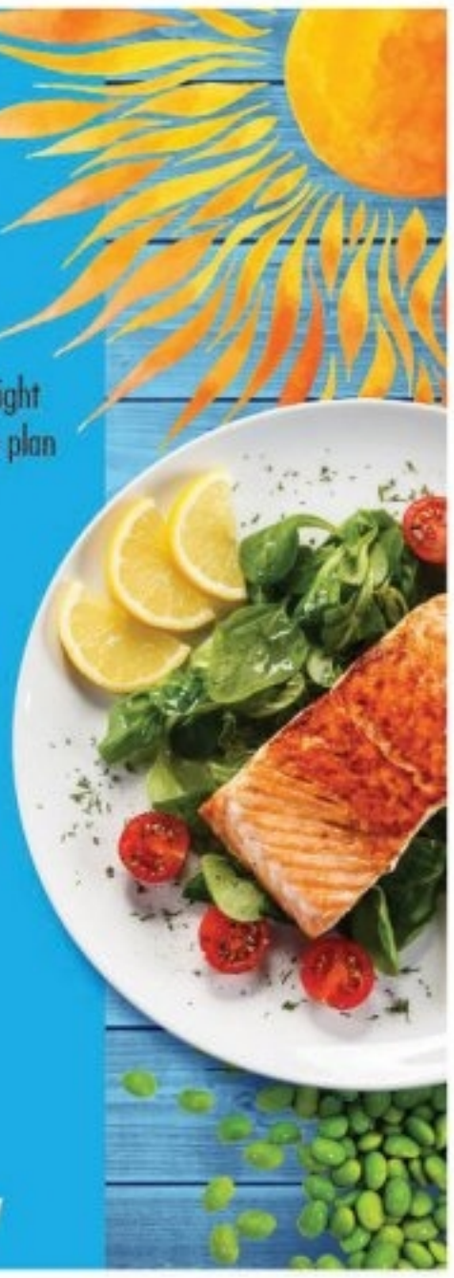

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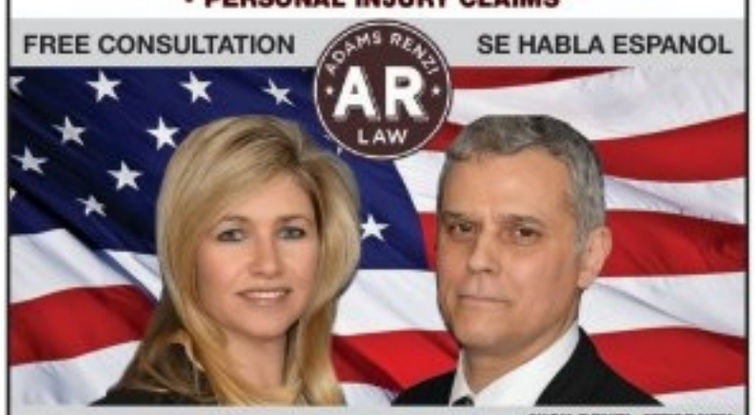


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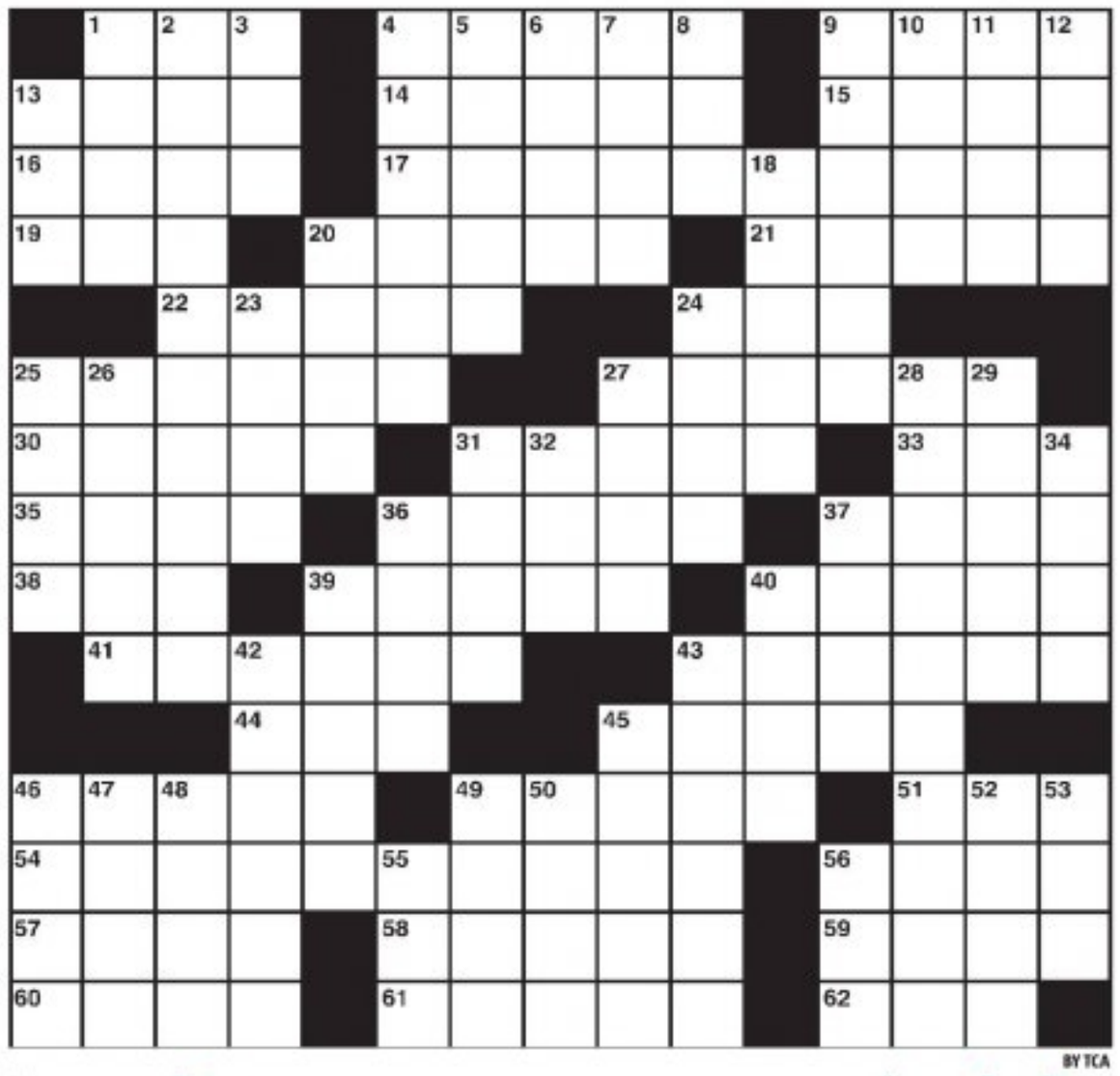
4 Customary practice
9 End-of-the-work-week cry
13 __ oneself; work steadily
14 "...knick-knack, paddy-whack, give a dog __..."
15 Donut's center
16 Uncle Ben's specialty
17 Defenseless
19 Vaudevillian Olsen
20 Sits for a spell
21 Haywire
22 Wright Bros. invention
24 __ and all; everybody
25 Engines
27 Univ. of Arizona's home
30 Ticked off
31 Freshwater fish
33 Auction offer
35 Captures
36 One of Jacob's 12 sons
37 Pesky insect
38 "__ Be Home for Christmas"
39 __ Wetsy; doll of past decades
40 Like a ripe peach
41 Deodorant brand
43 Door hanger's pieces
44 1950s school dance
45 With 58 Across, "Designing Women" actress
46 VP Spiro __
49 Beach souvenir
51 None __ soon; just in time
54 Writer's college major, perhaps
56 Obey
57 Williams or Griffith
58 See 45 Across
59 Courageous
60 Rod and __; fishing gear
61 Toothpaste brand
62 Not __ more; no longer

**DOWN**

1 Bucket
2 Good enough
3 26th of 26
4 Refuges
5 Mistreat
6 Leave suddenly
7 Hotels
8 Golfer's peg
9 Longest river entirely in England
10 Mongolian desert
11 Problems
12 Commissions
13 In favor of
18 Dressing choice
20 Seldom seen
23 Parking areas
24 Elbow bumper's cry
25 Skirt style
26 Graduate exams, perhaps
27 Cafeteria patron's item
28 Duty
29 Female relative
31 Play miniature golf
32 Harris & Marinaro
34 "Eight __ a Week"; Beatles hit
36 Army vehicle
37 "Mr. Candid Camera"
39 Hair color
40 Mrs. Joe Biden
42 Tiegs or Ladd
43 Protective headgear
45 Classroom furnishings
46 Not quite closed
47 No longer here
48 Unclothed
49 Insulting remark
50 Bring on board
52 "Beauty is __ skin-deep"
53 Peculiar
55 CBS rival
56 Grad. degree



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| | | | | 4 | 8 | | 6 | 5 |
| | | 7 | 3 | | 6 | 5 | 1 | |
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